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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE

Communication received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

Note by the Administrator

The Administrator wishes to bring to the attention of the Governing Council the attached communication addressed to him from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations.

Annex

COMMUNICATION DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Republic of Belarus is a founding State of the United Nations. From the very beginning of the Organization's programmes of technical cooperation for development, it has contributed to these programmes to the best of its ability.

At the present time, the Parliament and the Government of the Republic are carrying out a comprehensive programme to overcome the economic crisis and institute a market-oriented economy. To this end, legislative and other instruments have been adopted regulating issues of property and rent, prices and profits, finances and credit, external economic relations, etc. on this new basis. With a view to creating an open market-oriented economy, the Republic of Belarus, together with the other sovereign States of the transformed Soviet Union, has signed a Treaty on Economic Cooperation. This treaty includes completely new terms and conditions for the economic relationship between the former union republics of the USSR, which have declared their economic and political independence.

The present transition to the new economic relationships and to a democratic structure of society in the Republic of Belarus is taking place in the context of a severe economic crisis caused by loss of control and the breakdown of the established economic links in the territory of the former Soviet Union. The situation is greatly aggravated by the fact that these changes are occurring against the background of the growing national tragedy that has resulted from the most serious nuclear accident in history at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in April 1986. To reduce the radioactive, economic, environmental and social impacts of that disaster, the Parliament and Government and the entire Belarusian people have mobilized the nation's resources to the limit. As a result, the available reserves required to carry out the structural adjustment of the national economy, mobilize human resources, introduce new technologies and ensure full respect for and guarantees of basic economic and social human rights have been almost exhausted. It is becoming clear that without the assistance of the world community, the tasks of economic and democratic transformation in Belarus cannot be achieved effectively, irreversibly and within a short time.

Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Belarus considers it necessary to call upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take the necessary steps to prepare and submit to the UNDP Governing Council a proposal for the inclusion of the Republic of Belarus in the group of recipient countries and to determine its indicative planning figure (IPF) for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996). For its part, the Government of the Republic of Belarus confirms that it is ready to cooperate

constructively and effectively with UNDP in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the relevant rules and procedures of the Programme.